

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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SUBJECT: CIVAIR: RECENT GOM PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FORTHCOMING U.S.-
MEXICAN BILATERAL TALKS

REF: A-MEXICO 11025(DEC. 12, 1975).

1. DURING THE PAST WEEK, MEXICO CITY NEWSPAPERS HAVE REPORTED PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE BY VARIOUS GOM OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE FORTHCOMING BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS OF THE AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. THE COMMENTS BASICALLY FOLLOW THE UNDERSTANDING EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AT THE END OF THE LAST NEGOTIATING SESSION (DECEMBER 1-5, 1975) AND WERE EXPRESSED INCIDENT TO THE OFFICIALS ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC FUNCTIONS, OFTEN IN RESPONSE TO REPORTERS QUESTIONS. SAMPLE QUOTATIONS FOLLOW:

2. JOSE RODRIGUEZ TORRES, GOM DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION: " THE UNITED STATES ACCEPTED THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING ITS REQUESTS FROM FOUR TO ONLY ONE, BUT REQUESTED A NEW EXTENSION OF FOUR MONTHS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THAT POINT IN WHICH IT WAS MOST INTERESTED.... OUR COUNTRY ACCEPTED THAT EXTENSION AND TOLD THE U.S. AUTHORITIES THAT OUR POSITION WOULD REMAIN BASED ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PRINCIPAL OF AFFECTING NEITHER OUR NATIONAL AVIATION

NOR HARMING THAT OF OTHER LATIN AMERICAN AIRLINES.....
THE UNITED STATES HAD REQUESTED A SIX MONTH EXTENSION,
BUT MEXICO DID NOT ACCEPT THAT, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE
IMPACT THAT THAT WOULD HAVE ON MEXICAN TOURISM....THE
NORTH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAD ORIGINALLY REQUESTED FOR
THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT THE FOLLOWING: 1. THE ROUTE
MEXICO-SAN FRANCISCO, WITH FIFTH FREEDOM RIGHTS TO FLY TO
COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH; 2. THE ROUTE SAN ANTONIO-MEXICO
AND BEYOND; 3. ELIMINATE THE STOP IN MERIDA FOR PANAM
IN ITS MIAMI-MEXICO ROUTE; 4. TO FLY FROM LOS ANGELES TO
MAZATLAN, PUERTO VALLARTA AND GUADALAJARA, ROUTES WHICH
MEXICANA HAS BEEN OPERATING FOR 30 YEARS..... FOR ALL
THIS MEXICO ASKS RECIPROCITY AND EQUAL AND JUST TREATMENT;
THE ROUTE MEXICO-ATLANTA, WHICH IS BEING OPERATED BY
EASTERN AIR LINES, HAS BEEN DENIED US.... WE REQUEST
RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES IN THE EXPLOITATION
OF AIR ROUTES, ALTHOUGH FOR MEXICO THIS WILL ONLY REMAIN
WRITTEN ON PAPER BECAUSE UNFORTUNATELY WE DO NOT
HAVE THE FLIGHT EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO COMPETE".

3. SECRETARY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION EUGENIO
MENDEZ DOCURRO: "SURELY THIS YEAR AT THE END OF APRIL
WE WILL HAVE A NEW AIR AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES,
ENGLAND AND ISRAEL, AND THOSE EXISTING WITH DENMARK,
SWEDEN, FINLAND AND ITALY WILL BE OPERATED.....WE DO
NOT BELIEVE IT REASONABLE NOR CONVENIENT TO ALLOW A THIRD
COUNTRY OUTSIDE OF THIS AREA, IN THIS CASE THE UNITED
STATES, TO ABSORB THE SERVICES OF INTER-LATIN AMERICAN
COMMUNICATIONS OR AIR TRANSPORTATION BECAUSE IT WOULD
LIMIT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF OUR COUNTRIES....THE DISCUSSIONS
FOR THE REVISION OF THE BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT WITH THE
UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY, BUT OUR
POSITION HAS BEEN FIRM, STRICTLY ADHERING TO THAT WHICH
WE CONSIDER EQUITABLE AND NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE RIGHT
OF MEXICO TO EXPAND ITS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AIR
ACTIVITY.....WE WISH THAT THE NORTH AMERICAN DELEGATION
WOULD CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE AND REDUCE ITS REQUESTS IN
ORDER THAT THE SIGNING OF A NEW AGREEMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE,
BECAUSE THAT WHICH HAS BEEN IN FORCE FOR EIGHT YEARS
OUGHT TO BE UPDATED AND MODERNIZED WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF
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EQUALITY, RESPECT AND MUTUAL CONVENIENCE."

4. CAPTAIN MARIO GOMEZ PERALTA DAMIRON, PRESIDENT OF THE
COLLEGE OF PILOTS: "(THE PILOTS) INSIST ON AND SUPPORT
THE POLICY IN THE BILATERAL TALKS BY WHICH MEXICO OBTAINS
THAT WHICH ALLOWS A JUST DEVELOPMENT; A DIVERSIFICATION
OF SOURCES OF TOURISM; A BETTER SERVICE OF THE TRANSPOR-
TATION OF NATIONAL PRODUCTS FOR AN INCREASE IN FOREIGN

COMMERCE".

5. RODRIGUEZ TORRES ALSO NOTED THE INCREASE OF AIR
TRANSPORTATION : IN 1970 MEXICAN AIR LINES HAD 2,534 FLIGHTS
AND 2,932 MILLION PASSENGER-KILOMETERS. IN 1975 THERE
WERE 3,736 FLIGHTS AND 7,000 MILLION PASSENGER-KILOMETERS,
INCREASES OF 47.4 PERCENT AND 139 PERCENT RESPECTIVELY.
FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, 592,000 PASSENGERS ARRIVED IN
MEXICO IN 1970 COMPARED WITH 1,355,000 IN 1975, AN
INCREASE OF 129 PERCENT.
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